

January 6, 1986 LB 276, 786
 LR 307

A new resolution, Mr. President, LR 307 which is a constitutional amendment proposed by Senator Vard Johnson. (Read explanation of amendment. See pages 134-35 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, I have a request from Senator Abboud to withdraw his name from LB 786 as co-introducer, and from Senator Higgins to add her name to LB 276.

PRESIDENT: No objections, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, that is all that I have.

PRESIDENT: All right, Mr. Clerk, very well. Now I guess on the agenda we are ready to take up the next division of the question which is number four of the proposed Code of Conduct. Senator Beutler, do you wish to take up the second divided question which is item number four of the proposed code.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, item four of the proposed code deals with the question of gifts and the question of accepting gifts from lobbyists, and in particular the question of meals and drinks and provisions and items that are not covered, food and beverages, items that are not covered under the Political Accountability Act. Under our existing law, the Political Accountability Act, gifts in the amount of \$25 in any one month period from lobbyists, gifts in an amount in excess of \$25 are prohibited. However, there is an exemption in that particular law which, basically, exempts breakfast, lunch, dinner, or other refreshments consisting of food or beverage provided for immediate consumption. So right now under the law a lobbyist could provide a legislator with everything they could eat as many times a month as they choose, and so there is no limitation, basically, in that particular area. So what part four to the Code of Conduct does in effect is regulate that particular area. And the basic provision in there basically says that gift, that the definition of gift will now include breakfast, lunch, dinner, or other refreshments consisting of food and beverage provided for immediate consumption that exceeds a value of \$25 from a lobbyist in any one month period. So in other words we are picking up the basic definition that is in the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and applying it to food